

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 have been examined. Claims 1-3, 7-9, 11-13, 18, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and the Examiner has indicated that claims 4-6, 10, 14-17, 19, and 20 contain allowable subject matter.

I. Preliminary matters

A. Objection to the drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because they contain Japanese characters. Applicants submit that the drawings filed on June 22, 2004 (in response to the Notice to File Missing Parts dated April 22, 2004) do not contain Japanese characters. Applicants assume that the Examiner mistakenly reviewed the drawings that were originally filed with the application on September 25, 2003, and not the more recently submitted drawings.

Also, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants are enclosing a copy of the drawings submitted on June 22, 2004, along with a date-stamped copy of the filing receipt. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.

B. Objections to the specification

With respect to the objections to the specification, Applicants submit that the amendments to specification and title overcome them.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0081240 to Soto et al. ("Soto")

Claims 1-3, 7-9, 11-13, 18, and 21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Soto. Applicants submit that the claims are patentable over the cited reference.

A. Claim 1

In claim 1, the method performs bi-directional pre-communication with an external device before print data are obtained from the external device. On the other hand, Soto does not disclose or suggest this feature. For example, in Soto, the application 215 generates a file 225, which includes a header file 226 and a printing file 227 that are packaged together and sent to the printer. Also, the header file 226 is transmitted to the printer just prior to the printing file 227 so that the printer may adjust print settings based on the information in the header file 226.

Assuming *arguendo* that transmitting the header file 226 prior to the printing file 227 corresponds to a pre-communication, it does not disclose or suggest a bi-directional pre-communication. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over the reference.

B. Claims 2, 3, 7-9, 11-13, and 18

Since claims 2, 3, 7-9, 11-13, and 18 depend upon claim 1, Applicants submit that they are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claim 21

Since claim 21 contains features that are similar to the features discussed above in conjunction with claim 1, Applicants submit that claim 21 is patentable for similar reasons.

III. Allowable subject matter

The Examiner has objected to claims 4-6, 10, 14-17, 19, and 20 for being dependent upon rejected base claim 1, but acknowledges that these claims contain allowable subject matter. Since the rejection of base claim 1 is overcome, Applicants submit that the objection to claims 4-6, 10, 14-17, 19, and 20 is likewise overcome.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 10/670,120

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

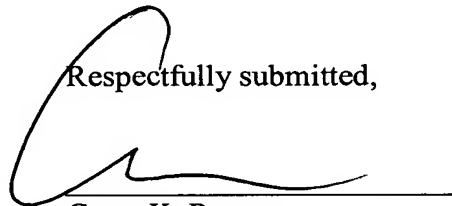
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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Grant K. Rowan', written over a horizontal line.

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Date: April 27, 2005